

EQUAL ACCESS TO THE RIGHT NUTRITION FOR MILITARY FAMILIES ACT (EARN ACT)

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, today, my colleague, Mr. FORTENBERRY of Nebraska, and I will introduce the bipartisan Equal Access to the Right Nutrition Act for Military Families—better known as the EARN Act.

The food insecurity rate among active-duty military families is 14 percent higher than the national average of 10.5 percent.

This affects service members from all ranks, especially junior enlisted as well as service members of color.

The EARN Act is an innovative solution to this problem that will increase military family access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—commonly known as Foods Stamps or SNAP.

It removes variability in state administered SNAP programs by establishing a federally administered SNAP benefit for military families with streamlined national eligibility requirements for military households.

It encourages participation in SNAP by requiring the U.S. Department of Defense to notify qualifying military families of their eligibility and automatically enroll families in the program unless they decide to opt out.

Finally, it eases the transition back to civilian life by establishing a transitional, temporary SNAP benefit for those leaving service.

When a person makes the commitment and sacrifice to serve our country in the military, we must honor this by ensuring that their basic needs are met.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF 9/11 ARTICLE BY JAMES PATTERSON

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize this article by James Patterson that originally appeared in The Montgomery Advertiser, September 9, 2016:

[From the Montgomery Advertiser, September 9, 2016]

ALABAMIAN RECALLS SEPT. 11, 2001

(By Jim Patterson, Alabama Voices)

Sept. 11, 2001, began like many busy mornings for me. I was in my Washington office and ready to leave for an appointment with a colleague near Georgetown University. Later, I had a meeting on Capitol Hill and after that, I planned to take Amtrak to Penn Station in New York.

Moments before I left the office, a radio news presenter said a plane had hit the World Trade Center in New York. This news astonished me! I stopped to hear more. While I waited for news, I reasoned a small aircraft with an amateur pilot could have hit one of the Twin Towers.

As a longtime traveler to New York, colleagues had told me stories of pilots in small

planes that had hit tall apartment buildings. This happens in New York. I proceeded to leave for my appointment.

The radio presenter then said a commercial jet had flown into the World Trade Center. This boggled my mind as I knew jets did not fly so low as to hit the World Trade Center. It had to be a hoax, I assumed.

When the radio presenter said the image was on the network news, I had to see it for myself. I was stunned to see billowing black smoke from the North Tower. An incredible pilot error, I thought. I thought perhaps the pilot died in the cockpit and lost control of the airliner causing it to crash into the tower. Still, I had doubts as I stood speechless watching the horrible images.

Within a few minutes, I witnessed a second airliner crash in the South Tower. It was a day of unspeakable events and lost friends. Shortly after 9:30 that morning, the windows in my office, situated near the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, rattled. I looked out the window and saw black smoke billowing in the distance from Virginia. Nearly 200 people died at the Pentagon that morning.

President George W. Bush was in Florida that morning with Vice President Dick Cheney in the White House. Members of Congress were evacuated to safety. Cheney decided to stay in The White House and issued military orders to shoot down any plane out of its flight path. Washington DC was a war zone!

Federal employees were ordered home. Military and National Guard troops quickly appeared to safeguard property and citizens. In a short time, the highways leaving Washington DC became clogged with cars. Many vehicles ran out of gas. Stranded motorists walked away from their cars. Washington's Metrorail was closed in several directions. Washington's mayor ordered businesses closed and residents to stay indoors.

Being a brave Alabama sort, I decided to go for a walk down a deserted Pennsylvania Avenue at around 10:30 a.m. I saw no cars and no people. A military vehicle with troops passed me by. Relieved they did not arrest me, I awkwardly waved at them. Two troops awkwardly waved in response.

In an episode of the 1960s TV program The Twilight Zone called "Time Enough at Last" a middle-aged bank teller longs for a life where he can read without the distraction of work. When he accidentally gets locked overnight in a bank vault and exits the next morning to find his town destroyed by terrorists, he is alone in the world.

As I disobeyed U.S. government orders to stay inside my office, I casually walked down a deserted Pennsylvania Avenue. I felt I was alone in the world. Perhaps this was the last walk I would ever make if more terrorism by commercial airliner took me away.

I stopped at a neighborhood restaurant to see a sign on the door. "Closed. Go home," it read. I walked to a barbershop and saw men inside fearful to wave back at me.

I saw fear on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001. I saw confusion. I wondered when it would be over. Fifteen years on, the threat of terrorism is not over. It is, sadly, a fact of life for all Americans everywhere in the world.

James Patterson, a former U.S. diplomat, is a writer and speaker based in Washington, D.C., and a life member of the Auburn University Alumni Association.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing this article by James Patterson.

RECOGNIZING P.J. MELVIN, RECIPIENT OF THE GREATER PITTSBURGH FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK'S 2021 ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor P.J. Melvin, who will receive the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick's 2021 Achievement Award at their Halfway to St. Patrick's Day event on Friday, September 24, 2021.

P.J. was born in Pittston, Pennsylvania. A lifetime resident of the area, he has lived in the family homestead since he was born. In 1964, P.J. graduated from Pittston High School, earning the title of Outstanding Senior Boy. He continued his education at King's College, graduating with degrees in sociology and English education. While at King's, he played on the football team and could be found on stage acting in Shakespearean plays.

After graduating from King's, P.J. began his career as an educator at St. Cecilia's Junior High School in Exeter, Pennsylvania. He then joined the teaching staff at the Wyoming Area School District where he held several educational positions during his tenure.

P.J. is actively involved in many community organizations and he has dedicated his time to serve in leadership roles. He is a former president of the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons. He is also a member of the Knights of Columbus John F. Kennedy Council No. 372 where he previously held the position of Grand Knight.

P.J. is known for his love of Pittston, and his presence has been a mainstay in the community for generations. Always seeing the potential of his beloved hometown, he served his community and fellow citizens as a Pittston City councilman. He was instrumental in starting the Pittston Tomato Festival, an event that attracts thousands of visitors downtown annually, and he was part of the effort to bring the statue of President John F. Kennedy to Kennedy Boulevard in the city. In 2019, P.J. was unanimously chosen by the Parade Committee to serve as Grand Marshal for the Pittston St. Patrick's Day Parade.

I am honored to join with the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick in recognizing P.J. as the recipient of the 2021 Achievement Award. I admire P.J.'s lifetime of dedication to the Greater Pittston area, and I wish him all the best.

RECOGNIZING THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF SHULTS AUTO GROUP IN JAMESTOWN, NEW YORK

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the fiftieth anniversary of Shults Auto Group in Jamestown, New York, and congratulate the Shults Family for reaching this milestone.

Shults Auto Group is the largest auto group in the Southern Tier. They have six dealerships carrying twelve different makes of vehicles and three pre-owned resale centers. The dealerships are located in Jamestown, Lakewood, Olean, and Dunkirk, New York and in Warren, Pennsylvania and they employ over three hundred people.

Shults Auto Group has an extensive history in the City of Jamestown. In 1970, Edmond R. Shults and Donald A. Gage bought controlling interest in, what was, Berglund Chevrolet. In 1971, Mr. Shults purchased Mr. Gage's interest and the dealership became Ed Shults Chevrolet, Inc. In 1981, brothers Edmond R. Shults, Jr. and Tim M. Shults purchased Ed Shults Chevrolet, Inc., and Shults Auto Group has continued to grow.

Community is extremely important to the Shults Family and Shults Auto Group employees. They have taken a vested interest in community events, infrastructure, and volunteerism. Shults Auto Group's philanthropic interests include youth sports, education, the National Comedy Center, Northwest Arena, and more. They believe in giving back to support their community.

The customer experience is also very important, and the center of their mission, at Shults Auto Group. Millions of dollars have been invested using local contractors and supplies over the years to enhance facilities, grow the company, and give their customers the greatest experience.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to recognize the fiftieth anniversary of Shults Auto Group in Jamestown, New York. Congratulations on this tremendous milestone.

HONORING ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Ann Catholic Church in Warsaw, Missouri, which has provided a place for the Catholic community in the town to gather and worship for over 75 years. On March 3, 1946, St. Ann's was dedicated by Bishop O'Hara from the Diocese of Kansas City, and the first mass was performed by Fr. Urban Landoll from the Society of the Precious Blood.

The original church, known as the "sheep shed", was a small building for a small parish, but since then, the parish has flourished and built larger facilities, including a parish hall which was finished in 1984, to accommodate the increased growth of their church family.

The parish and their new Pastor, Fr. Ben Nwosu, welcome everyone from the community to join in mass and celebrate the Lord.

The Church will have their anniversary celebration on Sunday, September 26th.

Congratulations to St. Ann's Church for contributing to the Warsaw area for 75 years. May the Lord continue to bless them as they enrich the Warsaw community for many years to come.

CONGRATULATING JALEEN ROBERTS ON RECEIVING SILVER MEDALS IN THE TOKYO PARALYMPIC GAMES

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to rise to congratulate Jaleen Roberts on earning two silver medals at this year's Tokyo Paralympic Games.

Jaleen Roberts attended Kent-Meridian High School where she competed in the ambulatory races at the Washington State track meet. Born with cerebral palsy, Jaleen trained and excelled in sports such as soccer, wrestling, and gymnastics.

As a result of her perseverance and athleticism, she was named to the U.S. 2020 Paralympics Track and Field National Team. In both her events, the long jump and 100-meter dash, Jaleen earned silver medals and set new U.S. records. Her accomplishments are a testament to her hard work, commitment, and intense training she completed to arrive in Tokyo.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Jaleen's incredible representation of our country, our state, and Washington's Ninth Congressional District on the world stage.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF TAYLOE MURPHY

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness but great respect that I take this time to remember one of my constituents and a special Virginian, The Honorable W. Tayloe Murphy of Westmoreland County. Tayloe Murphy passed away on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at the age of 88.

A statesman and conservationist, Tayloe will long be remembered for his service to the Commonwealth and the Northern Neck. Tayloe represented the 99th District as a member of the Virginia General Assembly from 1982 to 2000. As Delegate, Murphy's legislative accomplishments include numerous efforts championing a healthy Chesapeake Bay, including passage of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act in 1986. Appointed by then-Governor MARK WARNER, Mr. Murphy served as Secretary of Natural Resources, where he continued to advance measures protecting the Bay and preserving the Commonwealth's natural resources for future generations.

In addition to a life of public service, he also dedicated his time to improving the community in any way he could. Tayloe sat on multiple community boards. Most notably, he spent fifty-five years serving community banks in a variety of roles, including Vice Chairman with Atlantic Union Bankshares Corporation. Preceded in death by his wife Helen of 63 years, the Murphy's were active in the Episcopal Churches of Couple Parish and greatly contributed to historical preservation and education at Francis Lightfoot Lee's Menokin and Westmoreland State Park.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Tayloe Murphy, a true Virginia Gentleman. On behalf of America's First District, we say thank you.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAKE D. MOORE

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 272.

HONORING THE GLADYS PORTER ZOO

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding work and lasting impact of the Gladys Porter Zoo in Brownsville, Texas as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary. Since its opening in 1971, the Gladys Porter Zoo has served as a pillar of the community, committed to the preservation of nature through research, conservation, and education.

The founder of the zoo, Gladys Porter, was an active philanthropist responsible for administering the funds established by her father's foundation, the Earl C. Sams Foundation. In the 1960s, Gladys and her husband Dean enjoyed traveling the world. Their love of traveling led to a passion and appreciation for nature and wildlife. As the vision for a zoo in the Rio Grande Valley came to fruition, Gladys and members of the Sams Foundation planned the project. Mrs. Porter was highly involved in the process of the zoo's planning, construction, stocking, and equipping. Upon the Gladys Porter Zoo's completion, it was given to the City of Brownsville by the Sams Foundation.

The opening of the zoo was met with critical acclaim. In 1972, the zoo published its first newsletter entitled the 'Zoo News'. The newsletter is still circulated as a quarterly publication and provides zoo members updates on the animals. In light of the energy crisis in 1974, the zoo launched the "Adopt-an-Animal" program. This program is still widely popular today and encourages school groups, families, and individuals to "adopt" an animal, and financially support it for a year. In 1978, the zoo expanded its community education efforts by starting summer-study programs. These programs are focused on providing students with a hands-on learning experience through face-to-face engagement with the animals, indoor overnight camping, night tours of the zoo, and internship opportunities. The program has since grown in enrollment and is now offered to all youth grades K-12 in the spring, summer, and fall. These examples exemplify the zoo's continued commitment to public service and community engagement.

In addition to the zoo's involvement with the community, the Gladys Porter Zoo has remarkably carried out its conservation mission by contributing to various projects focused on preserving endangered species. Joint ventures